



Bitterroot National Forest

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"Weasel Salvage and Underburning Project Proposed on Darby Ranger District"

Hamilton, Montana, October 3, 2007 — Darby District Ranger Chuck Oliver is seeking public comments on the proposed Weasel Salvage and Underburning Project on the Darby Ranger District of the Bitterroot National Forest.

The project area encompasses approximately 933 acres in the Skalkaho drainage north of Weasel Creek. The project objectives are to reduce fuel continuity, restore and maintain ponderosa pine stands, and capture the economic value of trees killed by bark beetles.

Proposed activities include salvage harvest of beetle-killed trees on approximately 250 acres and underburning the entire 993 acres. In preparation for burning, understory trees will be cut and hand piled as needed. Roughly 64 acres of young noncommercial ponderosa pine will be thinned. Salvage harvesting would be accomplished using skyline systems and Forest Service Road 62666 will be reopened to allow access into the area. Up to ½ mile of temporary road would be constructed to facilitate logging operations.

For more information contact Sue Macmeeken at 363-7151.

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